THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme, 201 potential sites in 13 States/UTs have already been identified for wind power projects. The gross potential in the country has been estimated at about 45,000 MW. The present exploitable technical potential is about 13,000 MW.

The wind data collected under the programme so far will be utilized for preparation of a Wind Atlas for India by using state-of-art modelling techniques for a more precise estimation of the total wind power potential and identification of specific potential areas in different States.

Popularising the Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) system in Karnataka

2150. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been supporting the use of solar water heaters in Karnataka through a soft loan scheme implemented by several banks and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency;

(b) if so, which are the banks implementing the above scheme in Karnataka;

(c) the total number of beneficiaries of the soft loan scheme in Karnataka so far during 2002-03; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to popularize Solar Photovoltaic systems in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A soft loan scheme for solar water heaters through IREDA and banks has been introduced in 1996. The banks currently implementing the scheme in Karnataka include Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Syndicate Bank, Andhra Bank, Punjab National Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank and Bank of Maharashtra. The Canara Bank and the Union Bank of India operate the scheme only through a selected number of branches in the State of Karnataka while the other banks operate it through all their branches in the State.

(c) The amount of loans sanctioned by IREDA and banks and the approximate number of beneficiaries (considering an average of 4 sq.m.

of collector area for each beneficiary) so far as per the latest information available is given below:

	Till 31.3.2002	During 2002-03
Loan sanctioned	Rs. 40.84 crores	Rs. 11.78 crores
Approximate number of beneficiaries	15700	4500

(d) The Ministry has been implementing a programme for several years to promote solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems in the country. Under the programme deployment of SPV systems such as solar lanterns, home lighting systems, street lighting systems, solar pumps and solar power plants is encouraged by providing central financial assistance and soft loans. So far, 7334 solar lanterns, 4156 home lighting systems, 865 street lighting systems, 339 solar pumps have been installed in Karnataka under the programme. During the current financial year, the following measures have further been introduced:

(i) A new model (single point) for a solar home lighting system.

(ii) An interest subsidy scheme to be operated through banks & IREDA for SPV systems and power plants including solar lanterns.

(iii) A scheme for Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) to promote application of photovoltaics in buildings.

(iv) A scheme on solar generators as a replacement of kerosene/ diesel generators.

Setting up of Bio-Gas Plants during the Tenth Five Year Plan

2151. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the target fixed for the setting up of bio-gas plants in different parts of the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government to achieve the above targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme — National Biogas and Manure